REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application.

Claims 1-12 remains pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 9 being the sole independent claims. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1-7 and 9.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,047,847 (Toda, et al.). Applicant traverses this rejection.

As recited in independent Claim 1, Applicant's invention is directed to a camera having a physical element, photoelectric conversion means, memory means and control means. The photoelectric conversion means receives an optical image transmitted through the physical element and converts the optical image into an electrical image signal. The memory means stores correcting information for correcting a change in an optical characteristic of the physical element with respect to a change of the light transmission factor throughout the physical element. The control means performs on the electrical image signal correction of the change in the optical characteristic of the physical element in accordance with the correcting information from the memory means corresponding to the light transmission factor throughout the physical element, and controls drive of the physical element according to the corrected electrical image signal.

Independent Claim 9 is also directed to a camera and recites features similar to independent Claim 1. Instead of control means, however, independent Claim 9 recites correcting means for performing on the electrical image signal correction of the change in the optical characteristic of the physical element in accordance with the correcting information read out from the memory means. In addition, exposure amount adjustment means controls an exposure

amount by a combination of steps including adjusting at least one of the light transmission factor and the light transmission amount of the physical element according to the corrected electrical image signal.

The Toda, et al. patent is directed to an optical system in which the refractive index of liquid crystals are controlled. In the system described in that document, an image signal is corrected according to an output of an iris detection circuit 426 which is supplied with the output of a photometry sensor 413. However, the drive control is not performed based on an output of the image processing circuit 416 or correction circuit 427. In other words, the drive control in the system described in the Toda, et al. patent is not performed in accordance with an electrical image signal output from photoelectric conversion means and corrected with information read out from memory means storing correcting information for correcting a change in an optical characteristic of the physical element with respect to a change of a light transmission factor.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Toda, et al. patent fails to describe or suggest at least the features of converting an optical image into an electrical image signal and performing on the electrical image signal correction of the change in an optical characteristic of a physical element in accordance with correcting information read out from memory means corresponding to a light transmission factor throughout the physical element and controlling the drive (or exposure amount) of the physical element according to the corrected image signal, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 9.

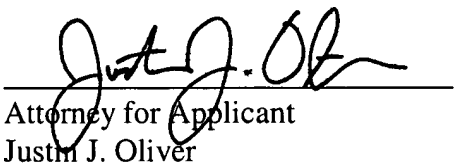
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims are allowable over the applied patent, and requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and thus are patentable over the applied patent for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied patent. Applicant requests independent and favorable consideration thereof.

Applicant submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been attended to and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A camera comprising:

a physical element that can change light transmission factor throughout said physical element;

photoelectric conversion means for receiving an optical image transmitted through said physical element at a position of an imaging plane, and for converting the optical image into an electrical image signal;

memory means for storing [a plurality of] correcting information for correcting a change in an optical characteristic of said physical element with respect to a change of the light transmission factor throughout said physical element; and

[correction] control means for performing on the electrical image signal output from said photoelectric conversion means, correction of [correcting] the change in the optical characteristic of the physical element in accordance with the correcting information read out from said memory means corresponding to the light transmission factor throughout said physical element, and controlling drive of said physical element according to the corrected electrical image signal.

2. (Amended) A camera according to claim 1, wherein said [correction] control means adjusts a stored correction amount of wavelength dependency characteristics of the light transmission factor.

3. (Amended) A camera according to claim 1, wherein said [correction] control means corrects said change by auto white-balance control for an output signal from said photoelectric conversion means.

4. (Amended) A camera according to claim 1, wherein said [correction] control means corrects said change by changing a sensitivity of said photoelectric conversion means in accordance with a light wavelength.

5. (Amended) A camera according to claim 4, wherein said [correction] control means corrects said change by a filter provided with one of said photographing optical system and said photoelectric conversion means.

6. (Amended) A camera according to claim 1, wherein said [correction] control means corrects said change by arranging another physical element capable of controlling a light transmission factor in the photographing optical system.

7. (Amended) A camera according to claim 1, wherein said [correction] control means comprises storage means for storing at least one of the light transmission factor wavelength dependency of said physical element and the correction amount of the light transmission factor wavelength dependency of said physical element.

9. (Nine Times Amended) A camera comprising:

a physical element that can change a light transmission factor throughout said physical element;

photoelectric conversion means for receiving an optical image transmitted through said physical element at a position of an imaging plane, for converting the optical image into an electrical image signal, and capable of adjusting at least one of a light accumulation time and a sensitivity;

memory means for storing [a plurality of] correcting information for correcting a change in an optical characteristic of said physical element with respect to a change of the light transmission factor throughout said physical element;

correcting means for performing on the electrical image signal output from said photoelectric conversion means, correction of [correcting] the change in the optical characteristic of the physical element in accordance with the correcting information read out from said memory means corresponding to the light transmission factor throughout said physical element; and

exposure amount adjustment means for controlling an exposure amount by a combination of adjusting at least one of the light transmission factor and the light transmission

amount of said physical element [the change of whose characteristics is corrected by said correcting means] according to the electrical image signal corrected by said correcting means, and adjusting at least one of the light accumulation time and the sensitivity of said photoelectric conversion means.

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